

## LOVE-LETTERS.

## An Amusing Sketch.

This species of composition is one which most men, in the course of a long and checkered career, become familiar with. If they have not got to write love-letters of their own, the chances of life or of a profession bring them generally into contact with the love-letters of other people; and general experience agrees in this, that there is no branch of literature so universally cultivated to so very little purpose or use, as love-letters ought, on theory, to be full of genius. They doubtless, or are supposed to contain, the young gushings of nature and of the heart. And it is very much in favor of the writers that they write in moments of considerable exaltation, and mean what they write to be seen only by one pair of liquid eyes. At such a task, one would think only a very stupid man could fail; but, on the contrary, one finds that very few men succeed. Perhaps, at the time, it is not of much consequence whether the author fortuniate in a love-letter, or the object of it, is really worthy to whom his efforts are dedicated. It is, however, a very blind, partial, and perhaps much of a literary judge. But as clever men every now and then are fascinating, and do happen sometimes to fall in love with them, it is necessary to have some sensible views to what a letter of the sort, directed to a competent critic, should contain. And, inasmuch as, in the present condition of society and the law, nobody can be quite certain that his love-letters may not be better suited to publication than to himself, it is important that people should give their minds to doing these distasteful duties well, and in a manner calculated to bring no disgrace upon themselves or their education. What ruins most love-letters is not the sentiment, or the unwordiness that underlies them, so much as the adherence to a common form, which is not by any means based upon the rules of that right and wise letter-writing of our fathers and best-educated people; and when they turn up in the papers, are always full of little commonplace which the writers appear to consider appropriate to the situation. They never seem able quite to make up their mind whether it is the correct thing to call the beloved object thou or you; and the second person singular and the second person plural keep blundering up against one another in a manner that must be heartbreaking to any young tradesman who has just joined the ranks of the world.

There is something about the letters of love-letters who belong to this class of life that reminds the reader of a valentine. It is the correct thing, apparently, among them to engage in a periodical correspondence, and the British tradesman does it without a murmur; but his spirit in it generally consists of assurances that when he gets back to his shop after leaving the lady of his affection, he could not sleep a wink; but that even in the dark watches of the night he "thine, fondly thine." The young writer, whom it is addressed, is far better pleased at the little common form, and could not be more lovelorn if he were to drown in a breakfast, and a trip out of town, are the other incidents of courtship and of marriage; their young milliners have had them, and it would be a painful thing to think they were to omit. The happy tradesman is bound to act so harmlessly a centiment of feminine graces and flourishes away with his thee's and his thou's in order to keep pace with his and his fair mistress' conceptions of what a love-letter ordinarily is, and what it is designed to do.

The love-letters of educated people are, doubtless, less grotesque, but educated people have their own common forms, which to cold and rational observers would appear possibly little less ridiculous in the long run. The poetry of the times has a good deal to say to the love-letter of the period. Girls who are tolerably well-read, know by heart all the routine of love-making long before they ever come to be seriously in love. The first thing that comes into a girl's head when she thinks of being called something like what another, much more is always calling one another in dreams. She is quite willing to be a bee, or a bird, or a fly; but it is *dérigeur* that she should either be in the ornithological or the botanical line. It is all very well if the lover happens to have been a little in the ducat way, too. He can in this case understand the feeling, and nerve himself, without much difficulty, to respond to it. But he is entirely ignorant about birds and bairns, and his task becomes serious. He has the humiliation of being obliged to confine himself entirely to calling his future wife an angel or a goddess, according as he is most addicted to classical, or to Christian mythology; while the mortifying thought cannot fail to strike him that both appellations are a little elevated and a little trite. If it were not, indeed, for the penny post, willing love-letters might be so exhaustless to the intellect. In old times a gentleman could only make epistles of his own once a week, or fortnight, and that partly on account of the postage, and partly on account of getting up his little steam and to select his illustrations. At the moment, it did not occur to him what sort of plant he wished to call his fair correspondent, he had at least seven days to think about it, and to consult his dictionary. The penny-post has altered all this, and a lover's imagination now has to undergo frequent and dismal drabs which it really is quite unitted to support. Courtship has become a literary crisis in life. Men, as well as women, will rest assured on this account, that the art of love-letter writing deserves to be seriously taught and seriously recognized. It is a sad thing to think how many people are totally ignorant of the proper rudiments of a training which is sure to become necessary to them in the daily routine of their profession.

A Tribute to Speaker Colfax.

The following deserved compliment to the Speaker of the House of Representatives had its origin in a request made to its author, on the part of a lady correspondent of Mr. Colfax, for his (the author's) autograph to enclose in her letter. Mr. Whittier, who was present, gave it *improposito*:

Colfax!—Well chosen to preside over Freedom's Congress, and to guide,

As one who does the rains of fate.

The crowd of statesmen and others—had

Despatched by one too wise, and good,

And fair, wifelike, to be wifelike;

Here, from our Northern river-banks,

Said to thee my hearty thanks

For all the patience which has borne

The weight of a week's load,

The strain of a copperhead's born,

The sting of the Copperhead,

And foot dropping words of lead!

Still wisely read, when the sea's

Hangs poised, to make the right prevail,

Still foreseen, and still successful to head

The life out from its writhing tail!

As wise, firm, faithful to the end,

Go keep these! pray thy sincere friend,

John G. WHITTIER.

Report of the State Treasurer of North Carolina.

Raleigh, December 28.—The report of Mr. Bates, Treasurer of North Carolina, exhibits as follows:—

Interest on debt of North Carolina, including interest to the 1st of October, 1866, is \$18,030.00.

The following general statement shows the condition of the State Treasury—Balance on hand of public funds, January 1, 1866, \$266,438; interest for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1866, \$1,967,770.26; disbursements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1866, \$1,850,628.72, leaving in the hands of the public trust-fund, October 1, 1866, \$4,790. A detailed statement of the report, showing an estimate of the probable expenses of the State Government for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1866, as follows:

Legislative Department, \$50,000; Executive Department, \$50,000; Judicial Department, \$50,000; Miscellaneous, \$22,100—total, \$490,635.

The Treasurer leaves it to the Legislature whether provision shall be made for the payment of interest on the public debt, and if so resolved, he says the rates can be increased for that purpose.

—There are 202 daily, tri-weekly, and weekly papers published on the Pacific coast at this time. One hundred and fifty of them are printed in California.

## LOVE-LETTERS.

Death of an Aged Lady.—Mrs. Miriam Hart, of the town of Union, Me., died recently at the advanced age of one hundred years three months and ten days. She was born at Sherburne, Mass., August 24, 1787. Her maiden name was Beck. She had a distinct remembrance of the fight at Lexington, where the first blood of the Revolution was shed, and of her father's taking his gun and going out to join the minutemen. She and her husband were among the first settlers of Union, and endured all the labors and privations of a pioneer life. Her two children, both over seventy years old, followed their mother to the grave.

## MILLINERY, ETC.

## MILLINERY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

## A Cheap and Substantial Girl.

Attention is called to my elegant assortment of RUBBONS, suitable for SCARFS; FEATHERS, FLOWERS, BONNETS, and YOUNG LADIES' HATS, prepared specially for the HOLIDAY SEASON, and selling at greatly reduced prices.

## MADEMOISELLE KEOGH,

No. 361 WALNUT Street.

**SPLENDID OPENING OF FALL AND WINTER STYLES.—MRS. M. A. RINDNER, 1103 CHESTNUT Street, Philadelphia, has IMPROVED LADIES' DRESSES AND CLOAK TRIMMINGS. Also an elegant stock of Imported Paper Patterns for Ladies' and Children's Dress, Parlor Dress and Clock Making in all its branches. The quality of these materials may rest on being artistically fitted, and their work finished in the most prompt and efficient manner. The price of these articles at twenty-four hours notice. Cutting and busting. Patterns in sets by the single piece, for merchants and dressmakers, now ready.**

MRS. R. DILLON,

No. 323 and 331 SOUTH Street,

Has a handsome assortment of MILLINERY for the Holidays. Also, Silk Velvets, Crapes, Ribbons, Feathers, Flowers and Fringes. Ladies who make their own Bonnets supplied with the materials.

T. L. JACOBS,

No. 1226 CHESTNUT Street.

RICHARD EAYRE,

(Ten years with J. Burr Moore & John C. Allison.)

has opened at

58 N. SIXTH St., below Arch, Philadelphia.

Where he intends to keep a variety of

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,

And to manufacture the improved

SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT,

Invented by J. Burr Moore, which is ease and comfort cannot be surpassed.

H. F. BUTLER,

MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS

No. 142 South EIGHTH St.

J. W. SCOTT & CO.,

SHIRT MANUFACTURERS,

AND DEALERS IN

MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS

No. 814 CHESTNUT Street,

FOUR DOORS BELOW THE "CONTINENTAL," PHILADELPHIA.

P-A-T-E-N-T SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT MANUFACTORY.

AND GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE,

PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWER

POCKETS OF ANY SIZE.

All other articles of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS

in full variety.

WINCHESTER & CO.,

No. 708 CHESTNUT Street.

PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWER

POCKETS OF ANY SIZE.

ALL OTHER ARTICLES OF GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS

in full variety.

PROPOSALS

PROPOSALS FOR COPPER.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS.

December 18, 1866.

Scaled Proposals to furnish 400,000 pounds of Ingot Copper, one half "Lake" size, will be received at this Bureau until 1 o'clock P. M., on January 8, 1867, at which time the proposals will be opened.

The proposals must be addressed to the "Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair."

Proposed for the use of Engineers, Architects, etc.

A complete ascertment, constantly on hand, is offered to the trade at their Wholesale salons on the 1st to 10th of each month.

No. 34 JOHN Street, New York.

The Company has taken great pains and invested

great sums in fitting up their salons, and now ask the American public to give them a fair trial.

All Styles and Grades are Manufactured.

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